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Eleventh United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names
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Item 6 of the provisional agenda*
Reports on the work of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names, its divisions, working groups and task teams since the Tenth Conference

Report of the Working Group on Exonyms

Summary**

1. The report highlights the activities of the Working Group on Exonyms of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names since the Tenth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names, held in 2012. During the period, the Working Group held three business meetings and four workshops and published four books of proceedings.

2. The Working Group met on 6 August 2012 during the Tenth Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names, at United Nations Headquarters in New York, and discussed the endonym/exonym divide and new definitions of "endonym" and "exonym", as well as the question of whether a third term was needed for international waters. At the same meeting, Peter Jordan was confirmed as the Convenor of the Working Group in an election.

3. The Working Group held its fourteenth meeting in Corfu, Greece, from 23 to 25 May 2013. The meeting was in the form of a workshop and was organized in conjunction with a meeting of the Working Group on Toponymic Terminology (convened by Staffan Nystrom). The meeting was attended by 33 experts from 20 countries and had before it 17 presentations on the endonym/exonym divide and on the use and documentation of exonyms in various countries. The presentations were followed by an intensive discussion on new definitions of "endonym" and "exonym". Proceedings of the fourteenth meeting have been published as volume 3 of the toponymic book series *Name & Place* edited by Peter Jordan and Paul Woodman.

4. The Working Group met on 29 April 2014 during the twenty-eighth session of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names, at United Nations Headquarters in New York, and decided that as the Working Group's workshop had already held very intensive and deep discussions on the topic in several meetings,

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** The full report was prepared by Peter Jordan (Austria), Convenor, Working Group on Exonyms, and is available from http://unstats.un.org/unsd/geoinfo/UNGEGN/ungegnConf11.html, in the language of submission only, as document E/CONF.105/23/CRP.23.

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its next meeting, which would take place in Hermagor, Austria, would be the last opportunity to finally arrive at new definitions of "endonym" and "exonym".

5. The Working Group held its sixteenth meeting in Hermagor, Austria, from 5 to 7 June 2014 in the format of a workshop. It was attended by 28 experts from 17 countries and had before it 18 paper presentations on several aspects of the endonym/exonym divide. The presentations were followed by an intensive discussion on proposals for new definitions of "endonym" and "exonym". Following the discussion, it was decided that the current definitions of "endonym" and "exonym", as provided in the *Glossary of Terms for the Standardization of Geographical Names*, were in the given situation the optimum achievable. The proceedings of the sixteenth meeting of the Working Group have been published as volume 4 of the book series *Name & Place*.

6. The Working Group held its seventeenth meeting in Zagreb from 14 to 16 May 2015 in the form of a workshop. It was attended by 33 experts from 15 countries and 16 papers were presented dealing with criteria for the use of exonyms (which was the thematic focus of the meeting); terminology in the field of endonyms and exonyms; and the actual use of exonyms in various countries. It was concluded that instead of developing criteria for the use of exonyms, the Working Group should rather focus on noting the current trends in exonym use and should avoid using a normative approach. Proceedings of the meeting appeared in 2016 in volume 6 of the book series *Name & Place*.

7. The eighteenth meeting of the Working Group, on 26 April 2016, was a short business meeting during the twenty-ninth session of the Group of Experts, held at the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific in Bangkok.

8. The nineteenth meeting of the Working Group was held in Prague in conjunction with a meeting of the Working Group on Romanization Systems (chaired by Peeter Pall). It was attended by 26 participants from 16 countries and 19 scientific papers were presented. A general debate on the use of exonyms on the last day resulted in an agreement on a small set of globally common characteristics and criteria. Proceedings of the meeting will appear as volume 7 of the book series *Name & Place*.

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Reports by Governments on the situation in their countries and on the progress made in the standardization of geographical names since the Tenth Conference (for distribution only)

Report of Czechia

Summary**

Czechia has continued to standardize both names within the territory of Czechia and names outside the territory. Already standardized names are updated and the updated list of names of countries is maintained on the website of the Czech Office for Surveying, Mapping and Cadastre (http://www.cuzk.cz). Names within the territory of Czechia are maintained with an array of attributes in the national database of geographical names, called Geonames, which was established in 1997. All terminology data have gradually been centralized under the responsibility of one office. Non-standardized official names, especially names of settlements, are kept in the national database, which is administered by the Office for Surveying, Mapping and Cadastre. The interconnection of these systems as well as with other systems that register geographical names, such as cadastral maps, will be ready during the coming five years.

The Czech Commission on Geographical Names has helped to place the short version, Czechia, for the name of the Czech Republic in United Nations databases, especially the United Nations Terminology Reference System (UNTERM) and the geographical names database of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names. The short version of the name has been included in the databases since 6 July 2016. The name Czechia was added to ISO 3166, the international standard for country codes.

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* E/CONF.105/1.

** The full report was prepared by Irena Švehlová, Secretary, Czech Commission on Geographical Names, and is available from http://unstats.un.org/unsd/geoinfo/UNGEGN/ungegnConf11.html, in the language of submission only, as document E/CONF.105/24/CRP.24.

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Report of Denmark

Summary**

Since the Tenth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names, the commonwealth of the Danish realm has seen a strengthening of standardization commissions for geographical names throughout its regions (Denmark, the Faroe Islands and Greenland) with the transfer of the registration and administration of geographical names to the individual autonomous regions.

For Denmark, the introduction of a central electronic registration of geographical names, through the portal Danske Stednavne (Danish geographical names), has ensured a more efficient processing and administration of geographical names. This new development resulted from the decision by the Government of Denmark, the Danish regions and Danish local governments to create a common public basic data program in which geographical names are included. In addition, the 2017 Law on Geographic Information has created the legal basis for a decree specifying the requirements for the registration, standardization and management of geographical names in Denmark.

The management of standardization of geographical names is being strengthened through the digitization of the geographical names archives of the Name Research Section at the University of Copenhagen to provide for more effective processing of standardization of names. The same digitization has also resulted in cooperation between the geographical names committees of Denmark and Greenland on creating a unique and hitherto unrecognized collection of historical geographical name records in Greenland.

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* E/CONF.105/1.

** The full report of the report was prepared by Peder Gammeltoft, University of Copenhagen, and Jens Bo Rykov, Agency for Data Supply and Efficiency, and is available from http://unstats.un.org/unsd/geoinfo/UNGEGN/ungegnConf11.html, in the language of submission only, as document E/CONF.105/25/CRP.25.

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Item 9 (e) of the provisional agenda*
National standardization: toponymic guidelines for map editors and other editors

Toponymic guidelines for international use by map editors and other editors

Summary**

The third edition of the toponymic guidelines for international use by map editors and other editors includes editorial corrections to the second edition, which was presented with minor editorial corrections at the Tenth United Nations Conference, held in New York in 2012, and new information on legal, administrative and organizational matters. This edition includes information on the administrative status of all parts of the Commonwealth of the Realm of Denmark — Denmark, the Faroe Islands and Greenland.

* E/CONF.105/1.

** The full report, which was prepared by Peder Gammeltoft (Denmark), University of Copenhagen, and Jens Bo Rykov, Agency for Data Supply and Efficiency (Denmark), will be made available from http://unstats.un.org/unsd/geoinfo/UNGEGN/ungegnConf11.html, in the language of submission only, as document E/CONF.105/26/CRP.26. The first edition of the guidelines was presented at the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names in 1982, the second edition was presented at the Ninth Conference in 2007; and the second edition, with minor additions and corrections added, was presented at the Tenth Conference in 2012.

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Report of the East Central and South-East Europe division of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names

Summary**

The East Central and South-East Europe division of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names held its twenty-first session, on 26 November 2015, in Ljubljana. The session was attended by 21 participants from eight countries of the division: Croatia, Czechia, Hungary, Poland, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia and Ukraine.

The session recognized the importance of geographical names and the positive achievements and progress made in the work to standardize geographical names by participating countries. It was concluded that the process of standardization of geographical names must absolutely continue.

All documents and information about the division are published on its website (http://ecseed.zrc-sazu.si/Home.aspx).

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* E/CONF.105/1.

** The full report was prepared by the Commission for the Standardization of Geographical Names of Slovenia and is available from http://unstats.un.org/unsd/geoinfo/UNGEGN/ungegnConf11.html, in the language of submission only, as document E/CONF.105/27/CRP.27.

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Report of Slovenia

Summary**

Since the Tenth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names, the Slovenian Commission for the Standardization of Geographical Names has continued with its work on the standardization of geographical names within and outside the territory of Slovenia.

Between 2012 and 2017, the Commission met on 39 occasions: 5 meetings and 34 corresponding meetings.

The main task of the Commission in that period was to prepare decisions on the correctness and suitability of new and changed names of streets and settlements in Slovenia, in accordance with the law designating areas and naming and marking settlements, streets and buildings. The accepted opinion of the Commission must be followed by municipalities, which are tasked with officially announcing new or changed names.

Both standardized and non-standardized geographical names are kept in the register of geographical names, which is maintained by the surveying and mapping authority of Slovenia.

* E/CONF.105/1.

** The full report was prepared by the Commission for the Standardization of Geographical Names of Slovenia. The report is available from http://unstats.un.org/unsd/geoinfo/UNGEGN/ungegnConf11.html, in the language of submission only, as document E/CONF.105/28/CRP.28.

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Achievements of Oman in relation to geographical names

Summary**

The report provides a summary of the activities of Oman in the field of geographical names.

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* E/CONF.105/1.

** The full report was prepared by Yousuf Alnabhani, National Survey Authority. The report is available from http://unstats.un.org/unsd/geoinfo/UNGEGN/ungegnConf11.html, in the language of submission only, as document E/CONF.105/29/CRP.29.

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Report of Italy

Summary**

In Italy, the main activities for the standardization of geographical names are carried out by the Italian Geographic Military Institute, as the body in charge of compiling, updating and publishing the official map of Italy, in cooperation with other national public institutions and academic organizations.

These activities can be summarized as follows:

- Updating the national toponymic database and implementing a new one
- Cooperation with the secretariat of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names for the implementation of the United Nations database on cities with more than 100,000 inhabitants and the related audio file
- Organization of the international scientific symposium on the theme "Place names as intangible cultural heritage"
- Creation of a new toponymic website of the Italian Geographic Military Institute with content related to Italian official place names and the activities of the Romano-Hellenic division of the Expert Group
- Establishment of the Commission for Italian Official Toponymy at the Italian Geographic Military Institute

* E/CONF.105/1.

** The full report was prepared by Andrea Cantile, Chair of the Commission for Italian Official Toponymy, Italian Geographic Military Institute, and is available from http://unstats.un.org/unsd/geoinfo/UNGEGN/ungegnConf11.html, in the language of submission only, as document E/CONF.105/30/CRP.30.

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Report on the activities of Egypt to standardize geographical names

Summary**

In accordance with resolution I/4 of the First United Nations Conference of the Standardization of Geographical Names, concerning national standardization, the Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics has worked with the relevant ministries and Government administrative bodies to compile, verify and standardize Egyptian place names in the 2017 census of inhabitants, buildings and facilities.

Egypt has participated in the work of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names in preparing a report on the strengthening of relations between the Group and the United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management, and in translating the resolutions of the ten United Nations Conferences on the Standardization of Geographical Names. Egypt has also participated in the work of the technical committees of the Arab Division of Experts on Geographical Names to compile the names of the major Arab cities, tackle problems with the standardized Arabic Romanization system and prepare guidelines on Arabic technical terms. Egypt has been an effective participant in the United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management, the meetings of the permanent committee of the International Geographical Union and the International Cartographic Association, the Task Team for Africa and the meetings of the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management, the Arab Division of Experts on Geographical Names and the International Geographical Union.

With regard to the publication of geographical names and related research, the Ministry of Local Development has published a 2016 guide on local units in Egypt. The Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics has published a guide on

* E/CONF.105/1.

** The full report was prepared by Eman Ahmed Oricby, Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics — Egypt, and will be made available from https://unstats.un.org/unsd/geoinfo/UNGEGN/ungegnConf11.html, in the language of submission only, as document E/CONF.105/31/CRP.31.

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the names of rural settlements and dependencies of villages. The Agency has also launched the first template of the Egypt Geographical Portal on the Internet and the geographical and information maps of Egypt. These include research regarding the geographical names of the administrative units of Egypt at the three levels, namely governorates, centres/departments and hamlets/villages/towns, alongside the names of landmarks gathered for the 2017 Egypt census. The publications include colour maps of data and statistical indicators. Egypt has also cooperated in producing United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names Information Bulletin No. 50, which addresses the practice of the use of exonyms in Egypt.

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National standardization: toponymic guidelines for map editors and other editors

Toponymic guidelines for map editors and other editors

Summary**

The 2017 edition of "Toponymic guidelines for map and other editors", submitted by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, includes minor updates and additions to the previous version, as presented at the twenty-fifth session of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names, held in Nairobi in May 2009.

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* E/CONF.105/1.

** The full report, which was prepared by Catherine Cheetham (United Kingdom), Permanent Committee on Geographical Names, will be made available from http://unstats.un.org/unsd/geoinfo/UNGEGN/ungegnConf11.html, in the language of submission only, as document E/CONF.105/32/CRP.32.

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National report of Cyprus for the period 2012-2017

Summary**

The national report of Cyprus briefly covers the activities of the Permanent Committee for the Standardization of Geographical Names of Cyprus during the period 2012-2017.

The first section of the report provides background information on the establishment and operation of the Permanent Committee, the legislative and structural framework within which it operates and the main principles to which the Committee adheres. The second section offers a brief description of its main goals and national programmes. In the third section, the Committee's main achievements are briefly described and examined. The final section of the report presents conclusions and recommendations.

* E/CONF.105/1.

** The full report, which was prepared by Andreas Hadjiraftis (Cyprus), President, Permanent Committee for the Standardization of Geographical Names of Cyprus; and Acting Chief Lands Officer, Cartography/Geodesy/Hydrography/Photogrammetry, Department of Lands and Surveys, Ministry of the Interior, Lefkosia, will be made available from http://unstats.un.org/unsd/geoinfo/UNGEGN/ungegnConf11.html, in the language of submission only, as document E/CONF.105/33/CRP.33.

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Toponymic data files and gazetteers: data services, applications and products (for example, gazetteers and web services)

Gazetteer of Sea Geographical Names of Cyprus

Summary**

A new publication, entitled "Gazetteer of Sea Geographical Names of Cyprus", was recently prepared for issuance by the Permanent Committee for the Standardization of Geographical Names of Cyprus. The work is based on the findings of a scientific study, which was implemented jointly by the Permanent Committee and the Department of Lands and Surveys. These two entities are the competent authorities responsible for the collection, processing, cartographic representation, standardization, transliteration and protection of the geographical names of Cyprus.

The Gazetteer of Sea Geographical Names is a supplement to the official Gazetteer, which was submitted by Cyprus to the Fifth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names, held in Montreal, Canada, in 1987. The new publication, which constitutes a significant contribution to the cultural heritage and educational system of Cyprus, will be available for downloading on the Permanent Committee's website (www.geonoma.gov.cy) after August 2017. Display copies of the publication will be available at the Eleventh United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names. Additional hard copies can be obtained from the Committee upon request.

The Gazetteer of Sea Geographical Names includes, inter alia, brief addresses by the Minister of Education and Culture and the President of the Permanent Committee for the Standardization of Geographical Names. One section of the Gazetteer examines the methodology that was applied during the collection and processing of sea names; and a conversion table of the Greek alphabet to Roman characters, based on ELOT (Hellenic Organization for Standardization) standard

* E/CONF.105/1.

** The full report, which was prepared by Andreas Hadjiraftis (Cyprus) — President, Permanent Committee for the Standardization of Geographical Names of Cyprus, and Ag. Chief Lands Officer, Cartography, Geodesy, Hydrography and Photogrammetry, Department of Lands and Surveys, Ministry of the Interior, Lefkosia — is available from http://unstats.un.org/unsd/geoinfo/UNGEGN/ungegnConf11.html, in the language of submission only, as document E/CONF.105/34/CRP.34.

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743, is provided. Reference is made to resolution V/19 regarding the Romanization of the Greek alphabet for geographical names and resolution III/16 regarding national standardization.

The book also includes a catalogue of all sea names, in alphabetical order. The names, which are set out in Greek in the first column, are followed by the article for each name, its transliteration into the Roman alphabet, a description of the geographical object (e.g., bay, cove, islet, rock), the community concerned (i.e., municipality, city, village), the administrative district, longitude, latitude and map reference. A total of 47 maps on a scale 1:25000 have been prepared for this purpose. The book also includes the same names in a second catalogue, classified based on community name, district name and toponym. Sea names include all Greek, Turkish and other names that have been officially recorded up to the present.